MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 SEPTEMBER 1981

Egypt

As-Sadat Press Conference--Speaking at a press conference, transmitted textually by MENA, President Anwar as-Sadat said his measures against sectarian sedition have been misinterpreted by certain people as an attempt to eliminate opposition in Egypt. Asserting that it is sometimes necessary to "swallow bitter medicines," As-Sadat reminded the assembled journalists of his commitment to a democratic multiparty system. He defended his government's decision to arrest a number of opposition politicians and critical journalists, claiming that politicians like the deputy leader of the Labor Party have incited sectarian unrest for political purposes and that journalists like Mohammad Haykal have distorted Egypt's image abroad. Dismissing U.S. media portrayals of his regime as an unstable and unreliable dictatorship akin to the former Iranian monarchy, As-Sadat said his government is not in danger and has nothing to fear. He said there will be no equivalent to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in Egypt and asserted that the Muslim Brotherhood, which had failed to overthrow the weak regime of King Farouk before 1952, is incapable of overthrowing his own, strong government. Justifying the dismissal of Coptic Pope Anba Shenudah III on the grounds that he has harmed the Copts and instigated disturbances that give the false impression that they are second-class citizens, As-Sadat said he hopes Pope Shenudah will stay in his monastery. Shenudah has not been arrested, As-Sadat said, and the state is not interfering in the clergy's laws and traditions. President As-Sadat claimed that 99.9 percent of Egyptians support his measures and noted that he will call on the People's Assembly and other national bodies to draw up a charter defining the role of the opposition and other aspects of political life according to "clear and specific principles."

Coptic Support, Referendum Campaign--MENA reported that the Committee of Bishops administering the Coptic Church issued a statement pledging support for President as-Sadat and calling for action to safeguard national unity and social peace. MENA also carried a cable of support for As-Sadat from Asyut Bishop Anba Michael and reported that he has called on all the churches in the Asyut Governorate to support As-Sadat's measures in the 10 September referendum. A Cairo radio commentary called on the people to vote for the government's measures to safeguard social peace and national unity, asserting that the question at issue is not one of religious differences, opposition or democracy, but one of treachery and plotting. Those who have endangered the safety of the homeland are a corrupt minority of traitors and hired agents, the radio said.

Israel

Reporting on the talks in Washington between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Jerusalem said the two sides had agreed to try to reach a strategic agreement; neither side proposed a defense pact. According to the radio, Begin said the talks on the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia were 'serious'. The radio also reported that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said in Washington that Palestinian organizations have transferred heavy arms to Jordan in order to stage future strikes against Elat and other targets inside Israel.

Libya

Citing Libyan and foreign sources, an 8 September LE MONDE dispatch from Tripoli said the highest levels of the Libyan Government have secretly decided to propose a treaty of friendship and mutual defense to the USSR. LE MONDE noted that Libya is prepared to grant "facilities" and possibly bases to the Soviet fleet.

Jordan

PETRA-JNA said Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah denied a Beirut AS-SAFIR report that King Husayn was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt while visiting Spain on 5 September. Abu 'Adnan dismissed the report as an example of the paper's habitual fabrication of news and publication of "imaginary" stories.

Iraq

Speaking in a Monte Carlo radio interview, President Saddam Husayn said he wants the Iran-Iraq war to end with a "clear victory for Iraq when it obtains its rights and removes evil from it and from the Arabian Gulf." President Husayn also expressed opposition to the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit conference dealing only with Lebanon. He said this idea is impractical and the summit conference should convene in November as scheduled.

Iran

AFP reported that "several" people were killed and some 40 were injured when security forces broke up four demonstrations organized by the Mojahedin-e Khalq and staged on main Tehran thoroughfares. At one location, revolution guards and other government supporters opened fire on about 20 young women shouting Mojahedin slogans and handing out antigovernment leaflets. Tehran radio noted the arrest of 28 persons in Tehran and Narmak after clashes with authorities, including 20 girls planning an attack on a telecommunications company with Molotov cocktails. The radio also mentioned that three counterrevolutionaries were killed in a Kurdish village during mopping-up operations aginst rebels. Citing KEYHAN, AFP reported that two revolution guards were killed by "terrorists" in Tabriz on 7 September.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique, carried by Baghdad radio, said that Iraqi attacks in Iran's Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region killed more than 190 Iranians.

Afghanistan

AFP, citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, reported that Soviet and Afghan forces have resumed a major offensive in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul to neutralize Muslim guerrilla forces. The government forces are said to have captured the town of Golbahar, which controls the mouth of the valley.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

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FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

JN100825 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Tunis--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has stated that the Israeli excavations around and under the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque mark the beginning of the countdown to the implementation of the Israeli plot to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock.

Addressing today's session of the Arab League Council, Al-Qasim said that the Israeli plot against the Al-Aqsa Mosque is a serious escalation of the continuous Israeli plotting against the Arabs and the Muslims. This plotting, he added, can only be faced by brandishing this nation's sole weapon, namely by further strengthening its solidarity and uniting its stand. We hope that Al-Aqsa will be the point from which we start our blessed march toward the achievement of our nation's objectives in restoring the usurped rights and preserving the holy places.

Al-Qasim called on the Arab states to adopt a stand that goes beyond making statements in order to preserve the Arab integrity and identity, restore the usurped rights and prevent those who have ambitions in our land from implementing their plots.

VOP REPORTS PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE-SYRIAN MEETINGS

JN091549 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian meetings within the framework of the joint meeting of the higher coordination committee have continued. Meetings were held in Damascus yesterday and today. The first meeting was attended by Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and representatives of the Palestinian revolution, Syria, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Amal Movement. Discussion during the meeting focused on reviewing new Lebanese and Arab developments in light of the Arab followup committee meetings. Also discussed was coordination of future steps in light of the apparent Israeli preparations to launch a wide-scale aggression against southern Lebanon.

A statement was issued on the Lebanese domestic situation approval to reopen the routes between the two sectors of the capital and the need to implement the special security decisions concerning the security of the nationalist sectors.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES SOVIET, SAUDI ENVOYS TO LEBANON

JN091543 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Alexandr Soldatov. The Soviet ambassador gave Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar a message from the Soviet leaders dealing with various developments in the region. Brother Abu 'Ammar gave the ambassador a reply message dealing with various Palestinian and world developments, particularly the Israeli threats against the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. The Saudi ambassador conveyed to Brother Abu 'Ammar a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in reply to an earlier message from Brother Abu 'Ammar.

AS-SADAT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEDITION ISSUE

NC091733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Mit Abu al Kom, 9 Sep (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held an international press conference at noon today in his home in Mit Abu al-Kom. It was attended by representatives of the press, television, radio and news agencies. President as-Sadat answered their questions on the latest measures he adopted to safeguard national unity and social peace.

President as-Sadat began the conference with a short statement welcoming the representatives of world press, saying that he is happy to meet with them, to answer their questions and explain the facts.

The following is the text of the statement President as-Sadat gave at the beginning of the conference:

I will make a short statement. I welcome you to Mit Abu al-Kom. This is where I was born and learned for the first time that every human being must have an aim in life. In fact, this is where I learned to admire faith, beauty and every inch of this place. We learned that this is God's creation. I am happy on this occasion to meet with you here in Mit Abu al-Kom, answer your questions and hold a dialogue with you. Thank you. The president then began to answer the newsmen's questions:

Question: Mr President, what do you think about world reaction to the latest developments and what is your answer to certain criticism regarding this?

Answer: Well, I have read all the newspapers you have mentioned. Moreover, I have read all that has been published in the United States and listened to broadcasts over radio. First, let me tell you frankly that my first responsibility is my nation in the first place. I feel I am responsible also to those who supported me in Western Europe, Britain and the United States. I feel I am responsible to them exactly as I do to my people. Sometimes it is inevitable that one of us must be operated on, and, at other times, one of us must take pills or swallow bitter medicine. However, I want you to convey the truth to your peoples, to whom I feel responsible, to explain any situation, because they have supported me and still support me and made me feel proud. I regret that the events were misinterpreted by certain people who portrayed the sectarian sedition and its grave repercussions as an attempt to destroy opposition in our country. No. Tell them with absolute frankness the truth, because you are living among us. I asked for the opposition. The opposition is an established fact in a democracy. There is no real democracy without opposition and a regime which has a multiparty system. Tell your peoples that I asked for the establishment of the opposition and the amendment of the Constitution through the government and the People's Assembly. The amendment was passed and the Constitution now provides that the political regime in Egypt be a multiparty system and not a one-party system as before. Tell your people that I and the members of the People's Assembly agreed to the establishment of the opposition. Why do you forget this? We want you to remind everyone of this.

What has happened is a very serious thing. You will recall that before I left for the United States on 27 July, I declared to the people that I was not happy about the events which took place in Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra', which is a suburb of Cairo. Following my return from the United States, I started preparing myself by reading heaps of dossiers, and then I delivered my speech. There were instigators among the Christians and the Muslims who played one against the other. After reading the dossiers, which explain many things and which cover the past 10 years, it became clear to me that the matter was not merely sectarian sedition.

I lifted press censorship in 1974 after the October war. There were many transgressions by the press. It was natural that such things should happen after many years of press censorship, but this never made me contemplate backing down on my decision to lift the censorship.

The sectarian sedition events proved there were instigators on both sides, including those whose names I read and members of the political parties who have been detained. The socialist prosecutor will clearly put the facts before the people and the world, exactly as we did when we published the names. You will read what the socialist prosecutor says.

Let me give you an example: The deputy leader of one of the opposition parties--the Labor Party which counts itself among the opposition--went to Alexandria and made loud speeches inside the mosques. These speeches have been recorded. Somebody informed me yesterday that our people were apprehensive when I announced that the speeches were recorded because I had previously announced that the practice of secret recordings had ended for good. I want to explain that the recording was made with the approval of the public prosecutor and we made no recording without the prior approval of the socialist prosecutor. I am telling you this fact to put you and my people at ease.

Let me return again to the deputy leader of the Labor Party, which heads the opposition in Egypt. He made speeches in Alexandria mosques and instigated and incited the worshippers, using the most inciting and instigating terms.

They [the Labor Party leaders] wrote in their paper that raising doubts is a legal practice of the opposition. This was published in their papers and you can read it.

What led to the events in Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' was not only the result of the instigation by religious fanatics on both sides, but also by some politicians who have been arrested pending investigation. I promise now that parliament itself will do this in the future, exactly as the House of Representatives and the Senate do, because we are facing a political investigation and not a criminal investigation.

You have asked about Siraj ad-Din and Haykal. Siraj ad-Din was the secretary of the [Al-Wafd] Party which ceased to exist when the revolution broke out because of the corruption and the feelings of every Egyptian toward politics and the politicians at the time.

The person I am speaking to you about in his capacity as the deputy leader of the Labor Party was the deputy leader of Siraj ad-Din's party--the Al-Wafd Party--which dissolved itself. This man went to Alexandria to incite the people in the mosques. All these things are recorded. This is not merely sectarian sedition but a general atmosphere of the political situation. Those responsible are not only the fanatic Muslims and Christians but there are others who must appear before the socialist prosecutor, who will conduct the investigation and explain things to the people and the whole world. Therefore, the question is not confined to the fact that this or that person belongs to the opposition or that he is a chief editor who has close relations with chief editors outside Egypt. Our object is to create an atmosphere that will not permit the occurrence of such events and that will end for good the attempts to distort the image of Egypt abroad.

Question: Are you likely at some time to pardon the pope and to allow him freedom of movement in Cairo and Alexandria or to resume his duties?

Answer: Well, regarding the pope and his appointment, there are two points: One point is connected with the clergy and this is the responsibility of the church and the Coptic people who elected him as head of the church in accordance with church laws and traditions. The state immediately issued a republic decree for him to assume his duty. This is necessary for a patriarch to assume his duties.

What has happened is this: Nobody can possibly interfere in the laws of the clergy and the traditions of the church. This is the responsibility of every Copt. Second, what I have really abolished is the second point, which I have the power to do. On this basis, I acted within my responsibility. However, should you ask my opinion, I prefer that he stay in his monastery as he used to do. Let us say that everything he corrupted in relation to the Copts here must end, because we must not provide another opportunity for the instigation and incitement of the Copts abroad. I believe the time has come for him to stay in his monastery.

As you are aware, we have not arrested him. He is in his monastery and the committee was appointed in accordance with the church laws.

Replying to a question about the different creeds of those who have been arrested and whether this means that the bases of the opposition to the regime has widened, the president said:

These people have been arrested in accordance with the Constitution, as I have already stated. I will be responsible primarily before my people, just as I am responsible before those who supported me in the United Sttes, Europe, Britain and the rest of the world.

I believe democracy flourishes under the banner of democracy and the protection of the laws in the country. Should anyone wish to hide behind this [banner], believing this is democracy, and to try to distort Egypt's image, then we have to make a decision.

Some have asked me about a certain journalists who, all of you know, had always distored Egypt's image. He did so in Europe and in articles he wrote in the United States, Eruope and the Arab countries. Let us wait until the socialist prosecutor gathers all the facts and presents them to the world.

Replying to a question by the NBC correspondent on whether he had been given President Reagan's approval for the deicsions during his visit to the United States, the president said: First of all, you have absolutely no right to ask such a question, because nobody here makes a decision other than through the Constitution. You must have forgotten that before I went to the United States, I announced that I would put before the nation an extremely important problem--the sectarian sedition.

Let me tell you that on 23 July 1952--29 years ago--I personally proclaimed the revolution. since then no other power has made decisions here, neither the British nor the Americans. When I heard that the United States--that Dulles--had the notion of imposing something on us, we spent over 15 years in confrontation. When I felt in 1972 the slightest suspicion that the Soviet Union wanted to impose something on us, I ordered the expulsion of 17,000 experts from the country in 1 week. Therefore, you have no right to ask such a question. However, I am sorry, this is democracy, otherwise I have would have taken precautions against you. The decision here is an Egyptian decision.

President as-Sadat said: The decision here is Egyptian. If Reagan were to discuss his internal problems with me, I might think of discussing my internal problems with him. However, anyone who respects his responsibility, people, his dignity and that of his people will not allow any power to interfere in his country's decision. Let his be know to you. There is one thing I want to thank you for: You asked a question that has been raised by those who call themselves the opposition in Egypt. They reiterate what you asked. I said well over 7 years ago that I pardoned them and that I gave them some time because a multiparty system and the new ideas it involved was new to them. However, they proved to grow worse year after year, and that is why I made my decision.

Question: My question concerns Pope Shinudah. Can you explain whether your decision is final or whether it is possible be could be reinstated by a republican decree.

Answer: I regret to announce that no one has ever harmed the Coptic citizens more then this man. History will record that he harmed Egypt because the Copts are part of Egypt, the country and history--they are partners in everything. One kilometer from this place is a village called Tukh. The Copts have owned half the land in this village for hundreds of years. My relatives and the people of the village work as laborers on that land. At the end of every seaons, they had over the money to the Copts and absolutely nothing has occurred between the two sides. No one has sought to incite either of them. We never heared any Muslim saying that we must not deal with Christians, or from the church or its head, things that instigate the people to stage demonstrations. Disturbances give the picture that the Copts are threatened as second class citizens. Yes, they gave this picture. Can you tell me how things would be here in Mit Abu al-Kowm if both fanatic sides confronted each other? This village is a very small specimen. Christians and Muslims live together like neighbors and partners throughout the country. The christians own the land and leave it in the hands of Muslims. This man has harmed Egypt because as I have told you, the Copts are part of my people and I am responsible for them exactly as I am responsible for the Muslims. Both the Muslims and Copt are combined in one nation.

Question: Your decisions remind me of what has taken place in Iran. Do you believe the situation in both countries is similar?

Answer: Absolutely not. Let me remind you that I asked the shah to come with his family to Egypt and that I granted him and his family the right of asylum and full protection. Moreover, when the shah died a year ago, his funeral procession passed through the streets of Cairo and traversed 3 kilometers in daylight. The fanatics were their [in Iran] but they could do absolutely nothing because it wouldn't have been my policy which would have been applied against them had they done anything, but that of all the Egyptians.

I want you to know that all the Egyptians are proud of what I did for the shah of Iran. Otherwise, I wouldn't have remained in my position. These are the traditions here. They began in the village where we are sitting. These traditions provide that if somebody asks your help, you must respond immediately if he is an Arab, Muslim, Christian or Jew, because the Korean orders us to obey what has been revealed to Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.

This is the real Islam and not the Islam of Khomeyni. Therefore, do not fear that we will have a Khomeyni here. What I am dealing with now is really the people. This phenomenon prevailed after the 1967 period and it is like the phenomenon which prevailed in Europe and the United States after World War II. You confronted the system of rejection and of the hippies among the youth. Instead of hippies, I am facing fanaticism on both sides and I am trying to deal with it. But let the politicians, journalist and every individual live the battle with me because anything that is written wrongly or is mistinterpreted in front of my people might lead to disturbances and we might encounter difficult situations at any moment. However, let me tell you with full confidence, and I am saying this to the entire world, that the government has nothing to be afraid of.

The Muslim Brotherhood rose against the prerevolution regime, which was composed of a weak government and a weak king, it but failed despite this weakness. How could it succeed if it contemplated doing the same in the presence of a strong government such as my strong government, administration and institutions. We have the People's Assembly and our judiciary and now we have the press as an estate.

I did what I did not because I believed there was a danger threatening the government. On the contrary, you have heard me say in the parliament that the youth, who are like my children, have been misled. I am very sad because of this and I do not want to arrest any of those who have been misguided by the Muslim extremists or by the political parties you are asking me about.

I am not doing away with the political parties, as you heard me say in the parliament. All that has been done is within the framework of the Law on Political Parties. I mean that what has happened necessitated the dissolution of the parties but I have never demanded this.

There are leaders of the Labor Party and the Communist Party whom you meet in Cairo and who issue statements which you read.

Question: Mr President, you said in your speech last Saturday that democracy is more vicious than a dictatorship. Would you please explain this, and in what direction the opposition is moving now?

Answer: Yes, I said democracy has more vicious claws than a dictatorship. Why? Because dictatorship amounts to a dictator defending himself and his followers, but democracy defends the people in this country. I am defending 99.9 percent of my people, and these are 0.1 percent. I am defending 99.9 percent. Let us wait until tomorrow when the results of the referendum are known. For this reason, I said democracy here will be more vicious because 99.9 percent do not oppose what has been adopted. You are in a free state and you know you can talk to any one on the street or to the leader of an opposition party and those who call themselves the opposition party, but they do not represent an opposition. They are following the old prerevolution system, over 29 years ago, which we revolted against.

As for the future, let us, after a period of time, review the situation of all those who were arrested. After that I shall call for a meeting of the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, the engineers union, the lawyers union and others as well as the workers unions and the various groups in the country to draw up a charter for the exercise of political life. The opposition will definitely be one of the points which will be discussed. We must agree on clear and specific principles to be applied to all of us, and not as things are today where the members of the political parties hurt their country by distorting its image--disorting the image of Egypt which is an island of stability amid a disturbed area.

I am proud, nevertheless, because Egypt is the only country which enjoys stability. I enjoy an advantage because some of the Israeli papers have pointed out that this proves that it is the only democracy. Well, they impose censorship now on all the dispatches and reports sent out of Israel, while we here do not impose any censorship on any report sent out of Egypt. Therefore, I ask you to seek the facts and give them to your peoples.

I feel I have a responsibility to your peoples just as I have a responsibility to my people, because the peoples of Europe and the United States supported me in the peace process and supported Egypt to the utmost, particularly the U.S. people who helped us to reopen the Suez Canal for the welfare of the whole world and the welfare of the Egyptian people. This was at a time when we were facing attempts by Arabs at the Baghdad conference to isolate us and shake Egypt economically. At that time, the United States provided us with considerable aid, and we shall be fully prepared to provide considerable assistance to them. This is our tradition in Egypt. But our internal problems are our concern, and they are the responsibility of every leader and not the responsibility of anyone else.

Question: Mr President, can you tell us if there was any indication that the major incidents that occurred in Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' could have recurred if you had not taken these measures?

Answer: Yes, definitely. I described my decisions some time ago as an electric shock. Yes, they were an electric shock to tell them that neither the Egyptian people nor I will show any leniency toward sectarian conflict or anything opposed to national unity in the country.

Question: Mr President, in your speech you alluded that certain foreign hands might be involved in the religious conflict and political opposition. Can you comment on this?

Answer: No, I prefer to wait until the prosecutor general issues his statement. Let me tell you something; in fact, I am extremely sad but I must inform you about the situation. I have here all the articles published in the newspapers and I read them, as I told you, before I made my speech a few days ago. Reports in the United States say in September 1981 that the difficulties that President as-Sadat encountered in the past were the motive behind the stringent measures adopted in the past 5 years against religious extremism and political opposition. These reports said that in early September the police arrested hundreds of Muslims, fanatic Coptic Christians, journalists, lawyers and rightist and leftist politicians. The reports also said that one of the officials claimed that the sabotage elements used religion as a cover, but that at a time when it was reported that the detention of many was due to the eruption of acts of (?religious) violence, the detainees included some who were opposed to the peace treaty with Israel and close relations with the United States. It was also reported that the step President as-Sadat has taken might strengthen his grip [words indistinct] but might raise speculations in the United States and Israel concerning stability in Egypt and [word indistinct] when he disappears from the political theater.

I am telling you this while you are staying with us and I hope you will convey the facts to your people. When I say facts, you know well what I mean. You heard me on 14 May this year tell the opposition to be an objective and genuine opposition. I also said I wanted a strong opposition because my government is very strong. For this reason I said on 14 May that if there were any questions about stability in Egypt and the extent of its reliability, this meant the reports conveyed to them from here did not represent the true picture.

Let me present you with an article. Let me tell you the following:

You perhaps may recall that in my sepech at Alexandria University on 27 July I said that I will face the nation after my return because I recevied a report from the public prosecutor and because there was something serious which must be put to the people. You perhaps may recall that I mentioned another story as well. I mentioned the story of the program that was being prepared for broadcast over the American ABC television network one day before my arrival or on the day of my arrival. This program was not only prepared but it was officially announced in the press. If you heard me on 27 July, then you know that certain Egyptians contributed to the preparation of the program with a view to depicting Egypt as unstable and not dependable.

These Egyptians who fed the information to those who prepared the program say that the U.S. Government must not repeat what has happened in Iran because As-Sadat is the new shah, that Egypt will become like Iran and that a revolution will erupt against As-Sadat. All of you know these personalities well. They are not among the opposition.

Well, when I announced this, the program had not yet been screened. I announced this on 27 July before my visit to the United States. Well, the program had not yet been screened but the ABC television network did other things. It contacted a certain journalist who is one of your colleagues--David Hurst. All of you know him and know that I expelled him from Egypt. All of you know why I ordered him to leave the country. I did so because at the end of [words indistinct] there was sectarian sedition also in addition to the communists and the rightists and other things. He wrote three articles at the end of 1972 and you can read them in the GUARDIAN. He wrote three other articles in the New York TIMES at the beginning of 1973.

The gist of the articles which were published in the GUARDIAN and the New York TIMES was that everything in Egypt had collapsed, that Egypt was on the road to collision and that the regime was unstable and could not be depended upon. This--in addition to distorting everything--happened at a time when I was signing the first order in January 1973 for starting the October war. The journalist you asked me about came to me in March 1973 and told me what David Hurst had said. This journalist was deeply convinced that everything had collapsed and that there would be no war because I had expelled the Soviet experts during the previous summer and because the missiles required a very high technical and electronic knowledge. He reiterated what Hurst wrote in the GUARDIAN and the New York TIMES. They could not prepare the program but they prepared this journalist to say this. What revealed this was their announcement that a program would be screened on the ABC television network. They referred to Egypt and to As-Sadat as the new shah. This journalist invented this story. After I announced this on 27 July, they did not proceed with the preparation of the program but prepared another program which depicted what I told you.

They contacted David Hurst in Beirut and asked him about Anwar as-Sadat and Egypt. David Hurst reiterated every word he mentioned in the six articles in the GUARDIAN and the New York TIMES 7 or 8 years ago.

This is a tape on which the ABC television program is recorded. I shall give it to the head of the information organization to see because it contains what the ABC correspondent and David Hurst had prepared. No one can deny it because it is a document.

There is a question I would like to ask you: Why must Egypt's image be distorted in the country most friendly to us, namely the United States, which has given gallant aid to Egypt and continues to give it even at this moment because I offered facilities to the United States to rescue hostages--and I announced this officially to the whole world--and because I have offered facilities to the U.S. Administration and told the Senate and the Congress during my recent visit that the United States can obtain facilities from Egypt in order to reach any Islamic state in the area as far as Indonesia in the event of anything happening, and so that another Afghanistan will not occur.

Is this because they wanted to inform the American public, as they had done before I revealed the program which I told you about and which was then canceled and David Hurst's program? It was supposed to be broadcast one day before my arrival or on the day following my arrival.

President as-Sadat read an article written by William Safire in the New York TIMES on 6 September. The president said that everything had been prepared, both the program had been prepared with the participation of the journalist about whom you are asking me (Haykal) [parenthesis as received]--and I have already announced this--and the one prepared afterward with David Hurst, to distort Egypt's image.

Let me read to you what Safire wrote in a dispatch he sent recently from the Middle East. He pointed out that attempts are being made to cover up the mounting tension between the Muslims and the Copts in Egypt in the image of the benevolent dictator. The president then said mockingly: I am that dictator because they must distort my image in any way. Watch the adjective: the benevolent dictator.

The article said that Anwar as-Sadat has abandoned the coverup attempts and sent the police to surround and arrest 1,000 of his opponents in order to suppress sectarian strife. The president pointed out that the two words "sectarian strife" were contained in quotes and this means he sent the police to suppress his foes and opponents.

The president said that the reporter's commentary said Egypt is a dictatorship. The president pointed out that he announces what was written without fear and had he feared anything he would not have had the courage to read this report to the public. The president added: You live among us. Does anyone object to your moving more than 15 kilometers outside Cairo, as is the case in Moscow? Does anyone prevent you from moving here or there or from speaking to anybody? Ask anybody, whether in upper Egypt or the delta, if he feels afraid or whether there [words indistinct]. I ask you to do that and to report what you have heard from my people, from the man on the street.

They wanted to harm the image of As-Sadat in the eyes of the United States and the whole world because I arrested traitors. I call them traitors because anyone who has contributed to the instigation of sectarian sedition, whether on the Muslim side or on the Christian side, is a traitor. Any politician who does not know the difference between the cause of his country and the cause of his party is a traitor.

The president then referred to the article which said that Egypt is a dictatorial state and that the Americans tend not to be severe in judging dictatorship if it is rightwing and that the one-man rule implicitly means that it is unstable and neither we nor he knows whether President as-Sadat will last 1 or 10 years, nor do we know what kind of regime will succeed him or against whom the arms sent to Egypt will be used.

Commenting on this, President as-Sadat said: I have told you about the matter of the shah. They do not know to what purpose the arms they supplied us with will be used. I have told you that I am prepared to give you facilities to reach any area of hot conflict in the Arab or Islamic world. Your forces carried out exercises here and returned during the hostage crisis. Joint exercises will be carried out here in the near future. However, the idea raised by the journalist you asked about is: not to deal with As-Sadat because he is shah No 2.

This is not the thinking of the valiant American people but rather the thinking of those who want to fish in troubled waters and distort Egypt's image. Whenever I take a measure, they consider it undemocratic and that the Americans must have approved it because I am a dictator, or they love me because I am a benevolent dictator or something like that.

Is this the truth about the relations between Egypt and the United States? Let me tell you what the truth is. The journalist you asked me about and to whom you cling committed a mistake in the United States. The day after he wrote the article, arrangements were made for his deportation before my arrival, but we have here the text of what he wrote. The man who wrote it in the United States is here and the paper is here also. Your man bewails the situation in Egypt because we ignore the Soviet Union and keep it away. You can read his article. What is published cannot be concealed. The truth about the relations between Egypt and the United States lies in what I agreed with the administration of President Reagan, namely, that we work hand in hand.

We are grateful to the United States. It has helped us to clear the Suez Canal and to conclude the first and second disengagement agreements, the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. It has also helped in building two bases in Israel, costing $1.6 billion to replace the two bases which Israel will hand over to Egypt when it evacuates the Sinai.

I reiterate this and say that this must be the prevailing tone and not the tone of plots by a person who wants to distort the relations between Egypt and the United States.

They are wailing about democracy despite the fact that we have provided a magnificent example of conversion from a totalitarian system to a multiparty system.

You have a different example in Portugal which is still suffering from instability and which lived in a state of chaos for 2 years because the Portuguese did not know how to move from a totalitarian dictatorship to democracy. We have not made this mistake because I was one of those who carried out the revolution 29 years ago. I was the one to announce its outbreak on the radio.

It was after I completed the transition from the totalitarian system to the multiparty system and when the opposition deviated from the correct path that I raised my voice. However, I have not abolished any political party and I did not adopt any measure abolishing any political party.

I am very sorry that I was excited because of what our friend here asked for, permitting this and that being done in my country. At another time, I would have rightly expelled him but I suffer from democracy as much as I suffer from the opposition or what they themselves call opposition. I must be tolerant with you for the suffering you caused me because I want you to know the truth. I want you to tell the truth to your people. We do not have opposition in Egypt but we have rancorous people. Speak to them and whatever they tell you, we will not censor your reports. You have seen this and you know that we are not like Israel. Israel censors all reports sent abroad but we do not have censorship. Send everything to your people but tell them the truth and tell them that the others say this and that by various methods. Tell them everything but do not tell your people, particularly in Western Europe, the United States and Britain, the distorted facts of the rancorous people, which I read to you. They tried to call me the new shah three times before my visit. They told Reagan: Do not put your hand in his hand. When they failed, they went to David Hurst who wrote, as I told you, six articles full of lies. When he wrote the three articles in the New York TIMES, the opposite of what he wrote happened. A state which wages a war is not an unstable state. The person who embarks on an initiative by visiting our bitter enemy in Jerusalem, against whom we mobilized our people for more than 30 years, is not an unstable person.

Well, I visited them [the Israelis] in 1977 despite the January 1977 uprising which I described as the uprising of thieves and which the communists described as a national uprising.

Had it really been a national uprising in 1977, would I have gone to our enemy in November 1977? Despite everything, I turned this enmity into friendship, peace and a new system in today's world. I urge you to convey what I told you. We do not impose anything on you and will not resort to censorship at all. All I want you to do is to convey the facts because each of us needs the other in this disturbed region of the world. I have given you a picture of the relations with the U.S. Government, Senate and Congress and with the American people, whom I really admire, and I consider them responsible, as I am responsible to my people, to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

AL-AKBAR BEMOANS LACK OF TRUE OPPOSITION

NC100921 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Sep 81

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] In today's issues the three Cairo papers highlight President Anwar-as-Sadat's international press conference in which he affirmed that the entire Egyptian people support his measures and decisions aimed at confronting the sectarian sedition which some political elements have tried to exploit to create an unstable atmosphere in Egypt. The president expressed confidence that the outcome of today's referendum will affirm the fact that democracy is protecting the majority of the Egyptian people and is achieving national unity and social peace.

On its part, AL-AHRAM says that after the investigations related to the sectarian sedition have been concluded, the president will ask the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council and all workers unions, professionals and centers of activity and establishments, such as the Chambers of Commerce and university faculties, to form some kind of constituent assembly which would draw up a full charter related to the democratic process to terminate the vestiges of transgression that were carried out during the past few years in exploitation of the democratic process. He will also ask them to lay down the bases of the responsible political behavior which must prevail.

On the other hand, AL-AKHBAR writes under the headline "If It Only Were an Opposition!" if only it were an opposition that was linked with the national conscience and observed the duties inherent in supporting the popular entity: if that had been the case, these foolish disturbances would not have taken place. The criminal attempts aimed at destroying the people's entity and the country's unity as well as at committing stupidities aimed at making Egypt devoid of democracy, justice, liberty and independence would not have taken place either. We say this because those twisted and hired elements allege that the criminal stupidities they committed against the national unity and the people's security fall within the realm of the opposition, and that the measures announced by President as-Sadat to deter these criminally misleading actions are aimed at abolishing the opposition. It is certainly amazing that the advocates and agents of those destructive elements are using this slogan abroad and publishing it in the news media which is interested in carrying the news, even though this means it has to act in a rash manner without being aware [of the facts]. Thus, they portray the whole matter as an opposition and what happened [referring to As-Sadat's measures] as the abolishment of the opposition; in other words a going back on democracy and a renunciation of the constitutional legality as well as the justice for and fair treatment of the people stipulated by democracy.

The paper affirms that these misleading statements indicate an insistence on pursuing the crime and an admission of it. All there is to it is that they are trying to distort the facts so as to appear under the guise of an opposition. These allegations do not even deserve a reply. On the contrary, those who utter them and try to spread them among the people deserve to be mocked and derided.

The paper asks: And why should President as-Sadat try to abolish the opposition when it was he who established it and called on it to be active? It was he who established democracy and he knows, as he indicated in yesterday's press conference, that an opposition is basic to democracy and that there can be no real democracy without an opposition and without a multiplicity of parties. On the basis of this democracy, the president announced the supremacy and immunity of the law, freedom for all the people's activities and the right of the opposition to issue its own papers and declare its national stance within the bounds of the legal institutions. He also advocated that democracy should always be based on opinions and counteropinions and that 'yes' and 'no' are uttered openly for all to hear.

However, those who masqueraded as an opposition used this opposition for themselves to achieve their criminal goals. They drew up conspiracies and worked in the dark. They worked underground, distributed leaflets, made up rumors and deceitful and criminal accusations.

The paper adds: It is in fact a conspiracy and not an opposition. This is the most correct description of them, judging by what they are planning and what they are carrying out; we would have wished that an opposition really existed, for an opposition working within the bounds of democracy is an honor which entails constructive work and building something which is linked with the national conscience and affiliation and which adheres to everything that achieves honor and dignity for the country. Thus, such an opposition would be a force behind the democratic process and national construction.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: Yesterday, they called their conspiracy to commemorate 18 and 19 January as a 'popular uprising'. Today, they call their conspiracy to destroy the people's entity and fragment their unity and opposition. We do not want to argue with this stupid logic because the people know all about those twisted and hired agents who would not hesitate to sacrifice the unity of their people and the honor of their nation to achieve their dubious goals.

RADIO COMMENTARY: TREACHERY NOT RELIGION AT ISSUE

NC092207 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary "The People Will Cut Off Every Hand That Does Evil to Egypt"]

[Text] When the masses of the people go to the polls tomorrow to cast their votes on the measures to safeguard national unity and social peace, they are aware that they shoulder a great responsibility represented in their views on these measures, as the people of Egypt have become the only masters of their interests and decision.

When we describe as extremely serious the outcome of the criminal actions by certain rancorous, agent and opportunistic groups which participated in the events of sectarian sedition, or fanned its fire, we say the absolute truth. If these groups were left to do as they pleased and the people and authorities had not adopted a decisive stand toward them, they would have precipitated the country toward a dark fate, the like of which Egypt has never faced throughout its history. The simplest examples of this fate would be what has happened, and is happening, in Lebanon, Syrian and Iran. Egypt would have become an arena for killing, destruction, bloodshed and starvation, and the peaceful Egyptian people would have become victims of terrorism, physical liquidation and panic, and the green, fruitful land would have become ruins for crows and owls.

As a matter of fact, there are question arousing suspicion about the intentions of those who, from the beginning, adopted stands, the appearance of which was different from reality. These stands were the most conspicuous factors kindling and fanning sedition. For instance, is the extent of a citizen's faith defined by the number of mosques and churches here and there? Has any Egyptian Muslim or Christian ever thought this was an issue in his life? Is it true that the premise of those who launched the campaigns of abuse and defamation of the government was decent opposition and pure concern about democracy and the people's rights? If we suppose this was their goal, doesn't the close link between their campaign and other tendentious campaigns by the other factions who sold their conscience to the devil and who are blinded by grudges to the interest of the homeland, arouse suspicion? The sole aim of these factions is to discredit the existing legal regime with the aim of achieving ulterior goals, even if this would mean enmeshing the country in chaos.

The question in our view is not one of religious differences, opposition or democracy, but one of treachery and plotting. It is a question of black caves that nest insects and bats to attack light and distort beauty. It is a question of Egypt's survival or destruction; of green fields, smiling children or reaping them by death and devastation.

In our view, anyone who would think of doing anything endangering the safety of the homeland would, despite any claims, be a traitor to the homeland. Only hired agents, crazy or ungrateful people agree to betray their homeland. The people must not allow any of these groups to impose their views or become the centers of power in the people's life. In our view, we must not have mercy on a corrupt minority that tampered with our homeland and sought to destroy our life despite our constant discomfort and hard work to emerge from our hardships, particularly after there were good signs of stability and prosperity for which we have sacrified for a long time.

The ingratitude by certain elements toward the people and the homeland will not prompt us to become hopeless or disappointed. We will continue the march of peace, prosperity and democracy and will increase our efforts to resolve our remaining problems, including the problem of illiteracy, which still constitutes a deep-rooted danger exploited by the enemies of the people to penetrate their unity and circulate rumors among their ranks. The people will triumph over all their enemies, God willing, and their word tomorrow will be a landmark on the path of victory and to cut off every hand that does evil to the homeland.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

NC100632 Cairo MENA in Asabic 2335 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)--In its issue that will be published tomorrow, Thursday, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that certain members of the Islamic groups received military training in the western desert under the pretext of religious seclusions. The paper says that this training was aimed at preparing these individuals for carrying out terrorist operations and using certain types of arms that they obtained from one of the rejectionist countries. The paper says that these individuals and their arms have been captured and that the training was under observation by the security organs from the beginning.

REPORTAGE ON SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

Coptic Synod Statement

NC092055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)--The bishops committee entrusted with the papal tasks of the Coptic Church stressed in a statement today the need for adherence to the original Christian principles that call for love, fraternity and tolerance. It also called for the need for action to ensure the safety of the internal front and safeguard national unity and social peace.

In its statement, the committee called on the men of religion of the Coptic Church to consolidate and emphasize these meanings in all sermons and spiritual meetings. It called for action to achieve the lofty aims that President as-Sadat calls for.

The committee renewed its support for President as-Sadat and his efforts to protect the safety of the homeland and the unity of its people. It urged the citizens to be careful and vigilant about plots engineered against the dear homeland, particularly the internal front, and influencing its solidarity.

The committee resumed its meetings today in the papal headquarters in Al-'Abbasiyah. A number of Christian bishops, metropolitans and clergymen from various governorates participated in the meeting.

Asyut Bishop's Cable

NC092053 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Asyut, 9 Sep (MENA)--Asyut Bishop Anba Michael has sent the following cable of support to President Anwar as-Sadat:

The whole world has listened to your serious speech on 5 September. It was a declaration of a constructive revolution against subversive and worn-out conditions and a gigantic turning point in Egypt's history and its contemporary renaissance, heralding a new dawn for a free and decent life. We agree on all the points in the referendum. The church is pleased to support you and to strive and make sacrifices for the benefit of the homeland, the safety of its people and the unity of its sons. Long live Egypt's leader, the builder of the state of science and faith.

Referendum Support Urged

NC092049 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Asyut, 9 Sep (MENA)--Asyut Bishop Anba Michael has called on the citizens to go to the referendum committees tomorrow, Thursday, and express their complete support for what President Anwar as-Sadat announced in his speech on Saturday. In a statement released today and disseminated to all the churches in the Asyut Governorate, Anba Michael said: On our part, we agree on all the points and support the change of the head of the church. We must take into consideration the interest of the church and place it above individuals. He added: The church that prays for the sake of the homeland will always be pleased to work and make sacrifices for the safety and good of the country and the unity of its people and sons. He added: We have complete confidence in the justice of our government and that any sons of the church taken into custody for investigation will be released, if he is proven to be innocent.

Rallies Witnessed

NC091405 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The Ismailia Governorate has witnessed a marathon popular march in support of the historic decisions and steps that President Anwar as-Sadat has taken to safeguard national unity and the security and safety of the internal front.

Eng 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the Popular Development Committee of the National Democratic Party [NDP]; Eng Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority; Sa'd ash-Shirbini, minister of popular development; And 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amarah, Ismailia governor, led the march, which began at the headquarters of the Ismailia Governorate.

The sons of Ismailia sent a cable of support ot President as-Sadat declaring their unanimous agreement with the referendum, which will safeguard the security, safety and unity of the Egpyptian homeland and social peace.

A huge popular rally will be held in Ismailia this evening at the NDP headquarters to explain the dimensions of the national moves aimed at protecting the internal front from extremist elements which endanger its safety.

The NDP in Al-Minya held a great popular rally attended by Minister of the People's Assembly Affairs Adviser Hilmi 'Abd al-'Akhir, Al'Minya Governor Maj Gen Kamal al-Hadidi, Assistant Secretary General of the NDP Dr Ahmad Mursi and the popular, party and executive leaders in Al-Minya Governorate as well as Christian and Muslim men of religion.

The rally has condemned the role played by the fanatical religious groups, both Christian and Muslim, which include fanatical elements that contributed to kindling the sectarian sedition. At the end of the rally, the participants sent a cable to President as-Sadat expressing support of the measures his excellency has adopted to ensure national unity and destroy sectarian sedition. They also voiced support of President as-Sadat's decision that there will be no politics in religion and no religion in politics.

Islamic-Arab League Cable

NC091456 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The League of the Islamic and Arab Peoples held an expanded conference today and issued the following statement:

The league of the Islamic and Arab peoples has studied the historic charter that President and leader Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat delivered in which he disclosed the attempts to foment sectarian sedition in Egypt. These attempts run counter to Egypt's history, nature and its unified national character throughout the ages. The league totally supports the measures that President as-Sadat has adopted and believes that they affirm Egypt's national unity, which opportunists, biased people and agents cannot harm.

The league lauds Egypt's unified stand, which is free of segregation among Egypt's sons and which shows the Egyptians' precious mettle.

The league extends greetings to the great president and affirms that Egypt will always be the stronghold of security and safety in our area and that by its solid national unity, Egypt will remain a bastion for the Arab nation and the entire Islamic world.

The league is confident that the total popular support for President as-Sadat's measures will further strengthen Egypt and boost its regional role and international status. May God grant Egypt support under its president and may he complete the domestic victories achieved in the past 10 years. The league's secretary general, Dr Sayyid Nawfal, has sent a cable of support to President as-Sadat on behalf of the league.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 456

JN091735 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Communique No 456 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 9 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces, the Arab nation's vanguards, continued to pound and destroy the forces of the racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors. The results of yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our brave forward units continued to attack and destroy the enemy positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment. The known losses in this region were more than 190 killed and 2 tanks destroyed. Moreover, a number of medium and light weapons and a quantity of hardware were seized. All are serviceable.
B. Our forward units clashed with an enemy infantry force supported by tanks in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our units hit it hard with every weapon and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 98 dead and 2 tanks destroyed.
C. Our forces hit hard with every weapon enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment. The known losses were 52 killed and 1 tank and 3 vehicles destroyed.
D. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Abadan region and forced it to retreat after killing 21 and destroying 1 vehicle.
E. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Mimak region opposite one of our units in Sayf Sa'd. Our unit pounded it with various weapons, killing 15.
F. Seven were killed and one gun and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. Two were killed and one vehicle, one gun and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Nowsud region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 385 killed, 5 tanks, 5 vehicles, 2 guns and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed and a number of serviceable medium and light weapons and a quantity of hardware seized.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 36 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, six vehicles and four mortars damaged.
C. The Persian enemy shelled the Basra region with heavy artillery this morning and this afternoon.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CASTRO

JN091300 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)--President Saddam Husayn today received a written message from Dr Fidel Castro, the president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, dealing with cooperation between the two friendly countries. The message was conveyed by Professor (Cambrafora), Cuban Communist Party Central Committee alternate member, during his meeting with the president at noon today.

MINISTER DENIES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON KING

JN091538 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Amman, 9 Sep (PETRA)--Asked by JNA about the allegation in the Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR today of an attempt to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn in Madrid, Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said: The Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR has recently taken to the habit of fabricating news and publishing imaginary stories about Jordan and its leadership after a long abstention from following the path of falsification. The latest of these false stories is published in today's edition about an alleged attempt to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn in the Spanish capital, Madrid, which the king has not yet visited during his current trip to Spain. However, by giving details of names of persons taking part in the alleged attempt and their places of birth, ages and the type of weapons used and so forth, AS-SAFIR imagined it could confer some credibility on its fabricated story in an attempt to deceive the reader.

Abu 'Awdah added: It is noteworthy that the newspaper's adoption of this suspect trend comes at a time when Israel has begun to escalate its campaign of casting doubt and falsehoods against Jordan and its solid pan-Arab stands. The paper thereby has accepted to play the role of aiding and feeding the Zionist enemy's policies in the occupied territory and the enemy's ambitions in the Arab lands. It seems that this newspaper no longer considers these Zionist efforts of basic importance as it indulges itself in the game of Arab differences and factional attachments.

QATARI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES ON VISIT 9 SEP

JN091321 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari crown prince, defense minister and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived in Amman today on a 3-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Shaykh Hamad made a press statement in which he expressed his pleasure to be visiting Jordan. He conveyed the greetings of the Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and the Qatari people to his brother His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people. He said: My visit to my second country, Jordan, comes within the framework of the beneficial meetings between officials in both fraternal countries to consolidate existing relations in the interest of both fraternal peoples.

Shaykh Hamad added: The continuous meetings between us and the exchange of viewpoints on matters concerning our peoples in particular and the peoples of the Arab nation in general will be beneficial to all of us, because they are our course toward more cooperation and coordination in tackling the dangers facing our nation, especially the Zionist danger.

His highness concluded his statement by wishing the Jordanian people continuing progress and prosperity under wise and mature leadership.

The Qatari crown prince is accompanied on this visit by Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and several expert senior officials.

The official talks between the Jordanian side headed by Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and the Qatari side headed by His Highness Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani will begin this afternoon.

BEGIN GIVES DETAILS OF MEETING WITH HAIG

TA092016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin says that in his talks with the leaders of the U.S. Administration in Washington it was decided to make an effort to reach a strategic agreement between Israel and the United States. To this end Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will confer with Secretary of Defense Weinberger and Secretary of State Haig.

Mr Begin talked with the U.S. secretary of state for about 2 hours this evening. In their talk they discussed the strategic situation, bilateral U.S.-Israeli relations and peace, in the wider terms of the word as the prime minister defined it. According to Begin he did not propose, nor did he hear a proposal by his guests, to establish a defense pact between the United States and Israel.

The two leaders also discussed the AWACS deal and Begin says that talk on this issue was serious. Each of the sides expressed its opinion and the prime minister emphasized that the sale of sophisticated spy aircraft to Saudi Arabia will endanger our national security.

Positive Conclusions Expected

TA100602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Sep 81

[Text] A new era in U.S.-Israeli relations is here. This is how Israeli sources in the premier's party in Washington last night described the willingness of heads of the U.S. Administration for a strategic partnership with Israel. Our correspondent, Shalom Qital, says that according to estimates by Israeli sources, positive conclusions are to be expected on this issue.

Our correspondent talked last night after the festive dinner at the White House with President Reagan and his secretaries Weinberger and Haig and heard from them very positive statements regarding the strategic partnership. President Reagan said such a partnership was reciprocal. Secretary of State Haig said that what is at issue are not one-time decisions, but a full and long-term process Defense Secretary Weinberger added that Israel raised various ideas and the United States will now have to ponder them.

SHARON CLAIMS TERRORISTS ARMING IN JORDAN

TA100555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Sep 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is with the prime minister in Washington, divulged that terrorist organizations have transferred heavy arms to Jordan in order to act from there at a future time against the town of Elat and other targets in Israel. According to him, the transfer of such military hardware could have been effected only with Syria's assistance. The Jordanians, on their part, are in no position to fully prevent terrorist activities from their territory.

Minister Sharon also said that the Syrians continue gradually to conquer all of Lebanon and reducing areas controlled by the Christians. Israel will not be ready for a political settlement in Lebanon, in whose framework a Syrian army with 500 tanks would remain there, as this would endanger Israel's security. The defense minister also said Israel would extend a helping hand to a political settlement in Lebanon if the United States succeeds to bring about a reduction of the Syrian presence and a removal from Lebanon of terrorist organizations, which continue to act against Israel throughout the world and continue planning attacks against Israel's civilian population. The defense minister's statements were reported by our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER RAPS EYTAN REMARK ON AS-SADAT

TA100606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Sep 81

[Text] Egypt's Defense Minister General Abu Ghazalah has sent a strongly worded message to Defense Minister Sharon in the wake of a statement attributed to Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan that peace with Egypt would disappear should As-Sadat disappear. Our correspondent notes that the chief of staff's statement was published by one of Israel's afternoon papers, and it caused amazement in the party of the defense minister, who is visiting in Washington. Sources at the party pointed out that so far the chief of staff has failed to make contact with Washington in order to explain his statement.

PRC COMPENSATES PLO WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS

TA091014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The PRC has recently given the PLO large quantities of heavy and light arms following meetings between PLO representatives and Chinese Government officials. A terrorist spokesman told the Lebanese newspaper AL-LIWA' that these arms shipments are the PRC's way of compensating the PLO for the losses it suffered in the 2 weeks prior to the cease-fire in Lebanon.

Our Arab affairs correspondent noted that Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua said yesterday that the PRC is supporting the Palestinians' return to the homeland and favors their establishing their own country on all conquered land.

SYRIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS LAW TO BE STUDIED

TA092041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] The Israeli Foreign Ministry will study the precise wording of the new Syrian law stating that Syria has extended its territorial waters to 35 nautical miles. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that only after a meticulous check by the ministry's legal department will the Foreign Ministry comment. Our correspondent notes that according to international law the territorial waters limit of any country is 12 nautical miles.

COUNCILS ACT TO STOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI

TA092036 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The first joint decision by all heads of councils beyond the green line, including the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley areas, states that they will all cooperate in trying to stop the withdrawal from the Sinai. Our correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that the rally held today called for practical actions.

Our correspondent learned a short while ago that dozens of people entered empty houses in the Talme Yosef settlement in the Yamit district. They entered the houses of families that had already evacuated the area, moving to the Besor area.

ETYAN ON CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON, PEACE WITH EGYPT

TA091915 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1830 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Excerpt] Merkaz Shapira, 9 Sep--Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan assesses that the cease-fire in southern Lebanon will soon be violated.

Speaking at the Or 'Ezyonn high school Yeshiva in Merkaz Shapira in the south, the chief of staff said the cease-fire was imposed on us after the Palestinian leaders informed the Saudi king that if a cease-fire was not immediately achieved, the Palestinian revolution would collapse. "We could not have objected to a cease-fire, but in my opinion it will soon be broken because the Palestinians must continue their war," the chief of staff said. Eytan said that the terrorists in southern Lebanon have begun operating as an organized army rather than as guerrillas and terrorists as in the past. Thus they will never be able to overcome us because their weaknesss is that as a regular army they are more vulnerable. The chief of staff noted that in all our battles with the Palestinians since the 1920's, the struggle has always been waged for Eretz Yisra'el by force. The negotiations path has never been tried.

Regarding the chances of peace with Egypt, Refa'el Eytan said: "The nature of the government in Egypt contains a danger to the peace process. At the same time it should be remembered that the agreement is between two countries and we should believe that peace will last. This is undoubtedly a great advantage for the future of the country." On the question of evacuating the Yamit district settlers, the chief of staff said: This is a political problem and I cannot express my opinion.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON REQUEST FOR U.S. AID

TA091849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Israel is requesting from the United States economic and security aid totaling $3 billion for the 1983 U.S. fiscal year. Of this sum, $2 billion is for military aid and $1 billion for civilian needs. The aid request was submitted officially this evening in Jerusalem to the U.S. charge d'affaires and to U.S. Administration representatives in Washington.

Upon submitting the request Finance Minister Airdor said that Israel emphasized its security burden, its foreign debt and its need for additional aid in order to strengthen its economy. He said that Israel requested that the percentage of grants for security aid be raised. He added that Israel had stressed cutting back on government operations and on the fuel subsidy in an attempt to convince the Americans that Israel is on the right path. In answer to a question, Mr Aridor said that in his assessment the aid request is minimal and he believes the U.S. Government will be able to accept it.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the request calls for increasing U.S. aid to Israel. Israel is also trying to space out the repayment of debts for a long period of time. Our correspondent notes that in recent years the Americans have usually refused to increase aid except for an increase in the military aid due to the deployment in the Sinai. The finance minister and the Finance Ministry director general are going to Washington at the end of the month to discuss the aid request.

PERES SAYS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE GOAL

TA092028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Peres says we had better aim at economic independence and limit our need for foreign aid so as to preserve our national honor. If we get accustomed to living on aid from others, we will lose our respect in our own eyes as well as in the eyes of others, he stated.

In a speech before the Histadrut conference delegates in Tel Aviv, Peres said it was not a long time ago when former President Carter's adviser, Brzezinski, expressed his opinion on Israel saying that a country which lives on a U.S. allowance cannot dictate conditions to Washington. Peres says these remarks sent shivers run down his spine. Our correspondent says Mr Peres' speech was often interrupted by comments from Likud members.

TUNISIA

CP ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS 1 NOV

LD091536 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Tunis 9 Sep (TAP)--At the first press conference it has held since the ban was lifted from it the Tunisian Communist Party announced yesterday that it intends to participate in the legislative elections scheduled for 1 November. The party secretary general, Mohamed Harmal, explained that his party will participate in the elections, even if the other opposition groups insist on rejecting the Communist Party's proposal to fight these elections in joint lists [of candidates].

Mr Harmal added that this participation will be limited since his party will not be represented in all areas of the country. He added that the party is able to produce, in some sections, independent lists [of candidates]. He added: Despite the rejection of our request that these elections be postponed, as we regard them as premature, we have decided to participate regardless of the outcome. The secretary general of the Communist Party continued: Our participation might appear to be symbolic, but it will be real. It will also be less limited, the more democratic guarantees are available. These guarantees, he explained, are connected with the freedom of expression and the secrecy of the ballot. He added that his party views its decision to participate in the coming elections as a contribution to the process of democratizing the country and through this contribution the party intends to make its aims known. Mr Mohamed Harmal expressed satisfaction at the realization of its demands. For example, licensing the party paper AT-TARIQ AL-JADID' and the lifting of the ban from the party.

Referring to the present situation in the country, Mohamed Harmal stressed that his party considers this situation to be new, despite the fact that some old aspects remain. Some, he said, believe this situation reflects only positive aspects, while others believe it reflects only negative aspects. We stress that it contains both positive and negative aspects within the framework of a contradictory coexistence. In this respect, he referred to the trial of those who belonged to the Islamic trend. He described their trial as a trial of their ideology. He asked for the release of those in prison and for the quashing of their sentences. Referring to the economic and social situation in Tunisia, Mr Mohamed Harmal stressed that his party encouraged the new trend in this field. Although this experiment is only beginning, we attach great importance to it, because we believe in development. He explained that the Communist Party's support for this trend is not without vigilance and a responsible attitude. He said: We shall exert the necessary efforts for its success. He observed that this trend is within the framework of the democratic process which the country is now bent on, which was embodied in particular in the appearance of the opposition press, in making trade union independence available and in recognizing the Communist Party. Mr Mohamed Harmal had previously criticized the economic and social policies of the 70's which, despite their relative dynamics, were unable to achieve food self-sufficiency, full employment and industrialization.

Referring to Tunisian University, he supported the idea of convening an extraordinary conference of the General Federation of Tunisian Students. On this matter he said: We support the freedom of the student organization, which must abandon internal fighting and must abandon intolerance. It must bring together all democratic and progressive trends in the service of the national interest. Regarding foreign policy, Central Committee member Abdulhamid Ben Mostafa explained that the Communist Party supports the nonalignment policy and also all liberation movements, including the Afghani movement. In connection with this issue, he criticized the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, without falling into the campaign which is being woven, as he put it, by the United States and some of its allies about this intervention. Mr Abdulhamid Ben Mostafa called for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from this country.

ETHIOPIA

INSURGENTS BATTLE GOVERNMENT FORCES 3-6 SEP

EA091256 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Bitter clashes took place at (Taraki), in El Carre district of the Bale region, between the heroic Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) Freedom Fighters and the Mengistu black colonialist forces. During the fighting, which lasted from 3 to 6 September, 33 enemy soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. Five military vehicles belonging to the enemy were destroyed by fire. Five heroic WSLF fighters lost their lives.

WSLF fighters have recently intensified their attacks on the dispirited black colonialist soldiers in that area.

SOMALIA

MOGADISHU COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH KENYA

EA092020 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The maintenance of good relations between Somalia and Kenya benefits both nations. This is the topic of our commentary today, written and read by 'Abd ar-Rahman Salah.

Many ties link Somalia and Kenya. They have common historical, cultural and border ties. Good and normal relations between the two countries can only be in the best interests of the peoples of both countries and the strengthening of economic and trade ties. Let us examine the nature of these relations in the past, what they are like today and the future outlook for them.

It is natural and possible that countries which share common geographical borders may experience occasional friction, but this should not permanently mar relations. Such neighboring countries usually solve their minor and major differences amicably. Somalia's and Kenya's improved relations and their newly-acquired collaboration are no exception.

The meeting between Presidents Muhammad Siad Barre and Daniel arap Moi during the last OAU conference was instrumental in opening a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. The two leaders raised and agreed on several issues. They also talked of ways of reaching agreement in areas where their views differed.

Normalization and improvement of relations between the two countries may be based on the following:

1. The propagation of mutual respect and confidence between the two countries while taking into account the natural bonds and the many issues the two countries and peoples have in common and the bilateral collaboration which is in the interest of their peoples.
2. Economic, trade, transportation and cultural exchange and the easing of the movement of peoples across their common border which will strengthen cooperation and relations between the two countries.
3. Finding a solution to the northern frontier district issue once and for all. A start has already been made; the administrators of both sides of the common borders have started talks and meetings aimed at normalizing the border relations.

The current stand of both countries makes it necessary for their differences to be solved. The new strategic policies confronting the Horn of Africa makes it essential for both countries to solve their differences. The myth and mistrust that came between the two countries has been the biggest cause of friction. With an honest approach this can be a thing of the past. It is clear that with an honest approach from both sides the minor obstacles on the road to speedier cooperation between the two countries can be easily overcome.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

NEW RULER ON POLITICAL AIMS, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

PM091653 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Sep 81 p 4

[Philippe Decraene interview with Central African Republic Head of State Gen Andre Kolingba in Bangui on 5 September: "Order Must Be Restored in a Responsible Way"]

[Text] Bangui--Army Gen Andre Kolingba placed a wreath on the tomb of Barthelemy Boganda, founder of the Central African Republic, in Bobangui [as published] on Sunday, 6 September. The previous day Mr Dacko's successor had chaired the first cabinet meeting held by the military since they came to power. General Kolingba answered our questions briefly.

[Question] How do you view your relations with the opposition?

[Answer] I simply ask the opposition to understand that it is necessary for it to give the new regime the respite needed to restore order in a responsible way.

[Question] When you talk of restoring order, what do you mean?

[Answer] I mean that the Military Committee for National Redress must really deserve its name; in other words, that its members must be motivated by a deep desire to change the course of events by dispelling torpor and general indifference.

[Question] What else?

[Answer] The whole nation must set to work. Recalcitrants will be penalized.

[Question] Do you envisage a return to democratic methods? How will you proceed in that case?

[Answer] As soon as the necessary conditions have been fulfilled, we will gradually return to democracy. Personally, I hope that the situation will be normalized as quickly as possible. But I am convinced that for the time being the regime which we have just established must have a free hand for a 6-month or 1-year transitional period so that it can be fairly judged by the initial results of its action....

[Question] How do you view former President Dacko's future?

[Answer] He has his freedom and can use it as he wishes. He can remain in Central Africa or he can go abroad, wherever and however he wishes. I do not know what his plans are, and it is up to him to make them known if he so desires.

[Question] What form of foreign aid do you expect? From which countries do you expect it?

[Answer] We are short of ready money and we urgently need help in this sphere. This is a very urgent matter because the future of Central African democracy is now at stake. How can we return to normal political life while the threat of bankruptcy hangs over our heads? We are obviously turning to France in the first instance, but our economic and financial situation is so serious that we are prepared to accept any form of aid from any quarter....

[Question] What do you regard as the main priorities?

[Answer] We must provide for the population's daily material needs and must immediately pay the military and the civil servants. Second, the economy must be revived and we must no longer limit our action to the capital and its suburbs. If we are to break the deadlock in this sphere and in the political sphere, we must solve our financial difficulties as quickly as possible.

LIBERIA

TEACHERS STRIKE ENDS AS DOE INTERVENES 9 SEP

AB091701 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The strike by teachers of the Monrovia Consolidated School System, MCSS, ended in Monrovia today with Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel Kanyon Doe appealing to the teachers to be calm and return to their classes as he and a committee from the MCSS Teachers' Association studied their grievances.

The head of state ordered the immediate reinstatement of the teachers dismissed early this week by the Education Ministry for not going to their classes adding: Where justice is delayed, justice is denied. The Liberian leader further ordered that the Education Ministry without delay release the August salary checks of the teachers. Speaking this afternoon at the Monrovia City Hall to hundreds of MCSS teachers, CIC Doe regretted for not being informed on the situation, but promised to work along with the teachers committee in reconciling the conflict.

Earlier, in a petition read by the secretary of the MCSS Teachers' Association, J. Gballa Weh, the teachers called for the immediate dismissal of Education Minister H. Boimah Fahnbulleh, his deputy, Walter Moses, and the superintendant of MCSS, Joseph Cooper, describing their action in the recent conflict as an insult to them. The petition further called on Education Minister Fahnbulleh to implement the salary scale promised to them earlier this year. In conclusion, the teachers called on the Education Ministry to reinstate all student governments expelled during the week as their action was a just cause. They pledged their loyalty and solidarity to the PRC Government. The strike, which began on Monday of this week by the MCSS teachers, was in demand for salary increment.

NIGERIA

MP ADVOCATES RECONSIDERATION OF OPEC MEMBERSHIP

AB060736 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Sep 81

[Text] A member of the National Assembly, Representative Kunsho Akinyoseye, is of the opinion that Nigeria should reconsider her membership of OPEC because the organization is not serving her greater interest. Representative Akinyoseye, Unity Party of Nigeria member for Ondo local government constituency, also expressed his views on what he felt Nigeria should do [words indistinct] and the rationale behind the stand of his party on some national issues.

SIX FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND SUMMIT

AB091509 Lagos NAN in English 1500 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Lagos, 9 Sep (NAN)--President Shehu Shagari is to host a one-day summit of frontline states on Friday. A source at the State House, Ribadu Road, confirmed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) today. The presidents of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to arrive in Lagos tomorrow for the summit.

According to diplomatic sources, the heads of state of the frontline nations are coming to Lagos to discuss the situation in Angola and Namibia, following racist South Africa's continued occupation of parts of southern Angola.

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS SAYS NO SOVIET, GDR TROOPS IN COUNTRY

AB091611 Paris AFP in French 1545 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] Luanda, 9 Sep (AFP)--The Angolan head of state, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, stressed today that there was not a single East German or Soviet soldier in Angola.

At a press conference held in the presence of journalists from Western and socialist countries, President dos Santos added: We have never denied the presence of Cubans in our country. Not long ago, we stated that their number has been reduced since 1975, as the defense capacity of our armed forces has grown. We also said, the Angolan president continued, that we concluded an agreement with the Soviet Union. Under that same accord, we have instructors who help us to train our cadres and to organize our armed forces. We not only have this type of agreement with the Soviet Union, President dos Santos said, but I must say we also have agreements with many countries, including Western countries, in many fields. I do not understand why this argument--that of the Soviet presence in Angola--is always used to delay Namibia's independence.

On 1 September, the South African defense minister, Gen Magnus Malan, announced that his troops had killed two Soviet officers and one Soviet NCO during their intervention in Angola.

A group of Western journalists who went to southern Angola at the invitation of the Luanda government last week noted the presence of Soviet technical advisers in Lubango--capital of Huila Province, about 300 km from the border with Namibia--but did not have proof, at any time, that they participated directly in the fighting against South African forces.

ZAIRE

ANC'S TAMBO SAYS ZAIRE PROMISES MATERIAL AID

AB061056 Paris AFP in French 0935 GMT 6 Sep 81

[Text] Kinshasa, 6 Sep (AFP)--Zaire has promised to step up its material aid to the ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo, the movement's chairman, announced on Friday evening after talks with General Mobutu Sese Seko, the Zairian head of state. Mr Tambo, who is heading his movement's delegation on a tour of several African countries, also disclosed that he was sure of the ANC's final victory in its liberation struggle in South Africa.

ZIMBABWE

ANC LEADER INTERVIEWED ON ARMED STRUGGLE

CA091552 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 9 Sep 81

[Text] The secretary general of the ANC of South Africa, Comrade Alfred Nzo, says his organization is determined to pursue the armed struggle despite acts of aggression committed by the Pretoria regime. In an interview with the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Company] Comrade Nzo said the armed wing of the ANC, Unkhonto we Sizwe, has achieved spectacular results since the visit to Salisbury recently by the president of the organization, Comrade Tambo. He said a mass political mobilization program has been mounted which aims at destroying the (?bastion) of apartheid. Comrade Nzo said whatever raids South Africa undertakes it will be liquidated in the end. He said the regime's invasion of Angola is aimed at putting obstacles in the path of SWAPO and the ANC. Comrade Nzo said these acts have been committed with the full knowledge and support of the Reagan administration.